(b) whether pilots have been trained to fly these aircrafts, and

(c) whether the Government of Russia has agreed for transfer of technology to the Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) The contract has been concluded. The first lot of 8 aircraft will be delivered in March 1997.

(b) Pilots are undergoing training in Russia.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Disparity in the Density of Population between Southern and Northern States

*174. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN:
SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the density of population has come down considerably in the Southern States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry and Karnataka as compared to the Northern States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that this growing difference in the density of population between the Southern and Northern States is likely to result in reduced representation in all forms based on the basis of population; and

(d) the action Government propose to take to see that the Southern States do not suffer for effecting population control measures seriously?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A draft statement on the National Population Policy has been prepared which envisages freezing of seats in Parliament and State Legislatures upto the year 2011. This draft has already been laid on the table of the Rajya Sabha in reply to Starred Question No. 262 answered on the 10th December, 1996.

Cases of Spying by Foreign Diplomats

*175. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of spying or espionage by foreign diplomatic officials detected during the last one year;

(b) the nature of the cases;

(c) the action taken thereon; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to prevent espionage?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) and (b) No case of spying or espionage by foreign diplomatic officials has come to notice during last one year. However, two cases of espionage involving non-diplomatic personnel of a High Commission in New Delhi and their Indian contacts came to notice during 1996. These two cases relate to passing on defence related documents.

(c) As the conduct of the two High Commission officials in these two matters was found to be incompatible with their official status, they were declared person-non-grata by the Government and were asked to leave the country. Both the officials have also since left the country. Two cases namely Case No. 469/96 of PS Delhi Cantt. under Section 3/9 of Official Secrets Act, 1923 and Case No. 930/96 of PS Defence Colony, Delhi, under Section 3, 5, 9 of Official Secrets Act, 1923 and 120-B IPC have been registered and are 'subjudice'.

(d) Various security agencies and the State Police Organisations have been sensitised. They have been advised to beef-up their security arrangements. The Government is committed to take all steps necessary to safeguard National security.